

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2007, in which claims 1, 3-14 and 16-28 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 14, 17, 25 and 28 are amended and the remaining claims are unchanged. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-8, 13-14, 16-18 and 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) being unpatentable over Saito et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,886,922 in view of Khizroev et al., U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0109947. On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 9, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. in view of Khizroev as applied to claims 8 and 14 and further in view of Onoe et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,221,639. On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 10-12 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination Saito and Khizroev and Onoe as applied to claims 9 and 20 and further in view of Fong et al., U.S. Patent No. 2005/0044695.

In a telephone discussion that included the Examiner, an inventor, and the undersigned, differences between the claimed shield and the magnetic shield of Khizroev were discussed. Based on the Examiner's suggestions during the discussion, claims 1, 4, 14, 17, 25 and 28 have been amended to more particularly point out that the claimed shields are electric shields that confine electric fields. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on page 7, lines 4-10, of the specification. An inventors' affidavit that includes well understood differences between electric shields and magnetic shields is submitted herewith.

In summary, none of the cited references (Saito, Khizroev, Onoe and Fong), taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest an electric shield of the type included in the independent claims. Therefore, the independent claims are believed to be allowable. Further, the dependent claims are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-14 and 16-28. Favorable action upon all claims is solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: /Alan G. Rego/
Alan G. Rego, Reg. No. 45,956
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

AGR:tkj